



# City of Bellevue | Proclamation

**Whereas:** Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year; and

**Whereas:** One in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

**Whereas:** LifeWire has been working to prevent domestic violence in Bellevue for many years through community engagement and strategies for youth; and

**Whereas:** LifeWire partners with the Bellevue School District and Bellevue College to provide healthy relationships training and youth leadership development, and to offer support for young people who may be concerned about themselves or a friend or family member; and

**Whereas:** The establishment of Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit young people, their families, schools and communities, regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity; and

**Whereas:** Everyone has the right to a safe and healthy relationship and to be free from abuse.

**Now, therefore, I,** John Chelminiak, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of **February 2019** as:

## ***TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH***

and I urge all residents to work toward ending teen dating violence by empowering young people to develop healthier relationships, assisting victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need, creating better and more resources for young people in need, instituting effective intervention and prevention policies in schools and engaging in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet epidemic of teen dating violence.

---

John Chelminiak, Mayor  
City of Bellevue